

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 29, 2004. Claims 1 to 32 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action required a new title. As such, the title has been amended to read "Management of Printer Settings." Withdrawal of the title objection is respectfully requested.

Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment extended during the April 8, 2005 telephonic interview. The remarks in this Amendment accurately summarizes the content of the interview.

Claims 1 to 4, 9 to 12, 17 to 20 and 25 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,149,323 (Shima). Claims 5 to 7, 13 to 15, 21 to 23 and 29 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,483 (Maniwa). Claims 8, 16, 24 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima and Maniwa and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,429 (Takahashi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 was discussed during the interview. More specifically, an amendment to Claim 1 was proposed that added the feature of an export instruction that is "on a user interface of a printer driver." Applicant took the position that Shima did not include this feature as Shima was not seen to teach such a user interface. The Examiner disagreed and indicated that he was interpreting the export instruction feature of the claim

to include the situation where a saved settings file is inherently available through a networked computer. However, the Examiner suggested that if the claim was amended to clarify that the combined setting file was exported to “another printer driver” he would withdraw the rejection over Shima.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner’s interpretation of the claim, and has chosen not to amend the claim as suggested by the Examiner. Rather, independent Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 have been amended to recite the feature of exporting a combined setting as a setting file which is able to be imported by a second driver in response to an export instruction on a user interface of a first printer driver. In addition, Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 also recite the feature of importing the setting file in response to an import instruction on the user interface of the first printer driver and adding the combined setting of the imported setting file into the favorites database of the first printer driver. The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

The Office Action contends that Shima teaches an exporting and importing means. Specifically, the Office Action contends that host computer 1 (see Fig. 2 of Shima) is an exporting and importing means and that setting files can be imported to different host computers connected via a network (col. 5, lines 1-20; col. 6, lines 1-16).

However, Shima is not seen to disclose or suggest that the exporting and importing functions are carried out via a user interface of a printer driver. Rather, Shima merely teaches that printer 65 is capable of offering setting values to respective host computers (col. 6, lines 5-8). Shima is not seen to teach the use of a user interface on a printer driver, muchless a user interface with an export function that exports setting files

which are able to be imported by a second driver or a user interface with an import function which imports setting files into the favorites database of the first printer driver.

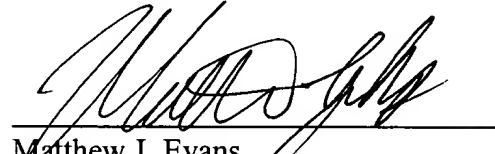
The remaining art applied against the claims, namely Maniwa and Takahashi, are not seen to supply what is missing from Shima. Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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Respectfully submitted,


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